

fifth generation of fighters to challenge us. We find ourselves in a situation where we might be taking a backseat at a time when I think we can least afford it. This is not inexpensive to do this. Senator CHAMBLISS provided an offset in committee for the cost of continuing this program until 2014. That is an important consideration.

I respect the members of the committee who wrestle with these issues. I wished to share with my colleagues this information, and particularly what it means in a State such as mine that has an 80-year history of producing these terrific engines, and workers such as the two individuals I have introduced to you this evening, whose talents and abilities we will potentially lose as a result of this decision. It is one of great importance to our country, to our national security, and to the people who provide the wonderful skill sets that give us these remarkable engines.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia is recognized.

Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be recognized for up to 5 minutes and that Senator THUNE be recognized immediately thereafter.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, I rise to affirm everything the Senator from Connecticut said. He made an articulate, detailed case for the F-22, in opposition to the amendment. I commend him.

I wish to add three thoughts, three good reasons, for the F-22 and not to adopt the amendment: No. 1, when the U.S. Air Force wrote the RFP for the weapon system of the 21st century to replace three existing, aging aircraft, the F-22 met and exceeded every single part of the RFP. No. 2, for those who say the cost is some \$2,000 an hour more for maintenance, you have to quantify that. Look what you are buying. You are buying stealth technology that exists nowhere else in the world and the ability to deliver munitions and leave without ever having been seen. Most recently, in Alaska, the F-22, in a mock battle, destroyed 144 aircraft before it lost its first one.

Lastly, and most importantly, while it may not be the plane exactly for Afghanistan and Iraq today, what about North Korea? What about Iran? What about what happened to us in the Balkans in the late 1990s, when President Clinton deployed our air strength to put together what was a terrible situation? We must be prepared for whatever will come in the 21st century. If there is anything we have learned, you cannot underestimate what may come. I commend the Senator for his articulate statement and affirm everything he said in support of not adopting the amendment and to continue to purchase the F-22 beyond the 187 currently being capped—or asked to be capped at.

I commend the Senator for his remarks.

Mr. DODD. I thank the Senator. That number of 144, I suspect people won't believe that number, but that is a real number. Pilots don't always necessarily comment on these matters. I am told by those who have been interviewed, pilots who fly the F-22 use superlatives to describe that aircraft they have never used about any other aircraft, including the ability to reach the speed of Mach 1.5 in 90 seconds, the stealthy quality, the maneuverability, and the agility exceeds anything else that exists anywhere else in the world.

There is a generation coming along in nations with whom we have pretty good relationships, but we can never predict what is going to happen. We have seen what happened with the SU-27 and the MiG 29, where those are widely disseminated worldwide now. They pose a parity with the aircraft we have. We need to have that superior quality.

I thank my colleague.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MERKLEY). The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I thank, first of all, my friend from South Dakota for yielding to me for just a moment. He was to be next recognized. This will take just a moment.

We have been attempting to work out a unanimous consent agreement so we could first vote tomorrow. That was not convenient for a number of Senators. We then tried to work out a unanimous consent agreement for first thing on Wednesday morning to vote on the Levin-McCain amendment. We have so far been unsuccessful in getting that agreement. We will continue to work tomorrow to see if we cannot get such an agreement. In the meantime, that is where it stands.

Again, I thank my friend from South Dakota for yielding.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for not more than 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Georgia.

#### TRIBUTE TO EMILY COX

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I wish to pause for a second and tell everybody in the Senate that on the 1st day of August of this coming month, in Waynesboro, GA, there is going to be birthday party for a 96-year-old lady, Emily Cox. She is not just another 96-year-old lady.

Emily Cox was the mother of Jackson Elliot Cox, my best friend in college. When he graduated from college, he left to join the U.S. Marine Corps, went through OCS, went to Vietnam,

and he died on behalf of his country. Miss Emily was saddened, obviously, by the tragedy, as was her husband Sidney.

When Alex Crumbley, myself, and Pierre Howard went to be at the wake and to wait for the body to return and to try to soothe Miss Emily, she soothed us for the loss of our best friend. Since that day, Miss Emily Cox has traveled our State on behalf of veterans, on behalf of the U.S. Marine Corps, and on behalf of our country. She is a living legend in Georgia for her sweetness, for her strength, for her love of country, and for her sacrifice.

While I will not be able to be in Waynesboro, GA, on August 1 to celebrate her 96th birthday, from the floor of the Senate, I send her my greetings and my thanks. She has been a rock for me, a rock for her community.

Miss Emily, we love you, and happy birthday.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

#### CAP-AND-TRADE LEGISLATION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, this week we work on the Defense authorization bill. As a member of the Armed Services Committee, that is something in which I have a keen interest. Many of the discussions you heard already and we will hear throughout the course of the week will deal fundamentally with our Nation's national security interests, making sure we continue to fund our troops at the appropriate level; making sure, in terms of pay and benefits, recruiting and retaining the finest men and women in uniform in the world, that they have the very best of technology to use when it comes to doing their jobs. You already heard a discussion about some of those various technologies, platforms—the F-22s and F-35s. I am very interested in the next generation of bombers and the importance of having long-range strike capability so we are able to continue to penetrate some of the more sophisticated air defense systems that are being developed by our adversaries and potential adversaries around the world. It is a great debate to have. It is one we have annually. I look forward to engaging in some of the discussions on these very important and critical national security issues.

I wish to speak this evening to some of the things going on on the domestic front. I always believe if we do not get national security right, the rest is conversation, which is why this Defense authorization bill is so important. But when we do get past the Defense authorization bill, I think we have a couple of big, epic battles that are going to be waged in the Senate coming up perhaps this month; if not, I suggest certainly in the fall. One deals with a bill that passed the House a little over a week ago now, the cap-and-trade legislation. The other deals with the issue of health care reform, which is one-sixth of America's economy. We are